

Tastes Good

Victor Yin

I learned to cook in lockdown
My first grocery run by myself
done in hurried silence
oil, pepper, butter, soy sauce
Socially distant self checkout
Forgot to grab hand sanitizer, but it was out anyways
Full pantries from sparse shelves
Tastes of home away from home
No longer relatable recipe preambles
Meal prep in plastic containers but who
had prepared for a pandemic?



Modern Reality

Parham Elmi

We live in a world:
Evermore so connected,
But we're so alone.

Absence 1 by Sun Woo Baik

Across the street

Scotland Galloway

Across the street, I hear a man speak,

“It’s so good to meet you.”

A woman replies, “I’m so glad to have met you.”

I can hear their happiness and beers.

I look to my left. Under the light of an apartment building entrance,
the two are in embrace. They hold each other close.

The mask on my face tickles my nose.

“I’ve felt so alone. I can’t believe,” she says,

her voice fades as I walk on

Friendships I Don’t Understand

Parham Elmi

You come and say hi

We smile, laugh, share food and chai!

Now only walk by—bye.